

### *Discussion Focuses on City Needs, WIPP Funding*

Washington, DC – Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague met with City of Carlsbad representatives at his Washington, DC office. The meeting focused on the city's priorities, potential projects and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility in Carlsbad. Attendees included New Mexico State Representative John Heaton, Mayor Dale Janway, former Mayor Bob Forrest, and Steve McCutcheon, the President of the Carlsbad Department of Development.

Teague also led the group, and a representative from WIPP, in a meeting with a House Appropriations Committee leader to advocate for increased funding for WIPP. The current proposed budget for the next fiscal year would cut WIPP's funding by \$10 million. If additional funds are not secured for the program, nearly 100 jobs in the area could be cut and important nuclear waste cleanup projects across the country would slow dramatically.

"WIPP provides many of the best job opportunities in our area, and in a time when so many people across southern New Mexico are struggling to find jobs, it's critical that the funding needed to keep these jobs here at home continues," said Harry Teague. "I've been an advocate of WIPP for a long time because WIPP is not only a vital part of Carlsbad's economy, but the work that it does to prepare and store nuclear waste is essential to our nation."

Last year, Harry Teague fought to add \$20 million in funding for the WIPP above the President's budget request, an initiative supported by local community leaders. The funding will go towards job preservation, improved environmental cleanup, and infrastructure improvement.

“Congressman Teague has been a champion for the WIPP because he knows how important it is to the Carlsbad Community. He has worked hard to secure essential funding for the facility so that WIPP can sustain projects that are already underway while keeping and creating stable jobs in southern New Mexico,” said Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway.